

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO, OCON

SUBJECT: 70TH FAO COUNCIL: POST-HARVEST LOSSES

1. SUMMARY: COUNCIL DISCUSSED POST-HARVEST LOSSES ALONG WITH STATUS OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE; RECOGNIZED URGENCY OF PROBLEM; SUPPORTED UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY 7TH SPECIAL SESSION'S GOALS; AND ACCEPTED HAVING A PROPOSED SPECIAL FUND STUDIED BY AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE NEXT SPRING. END SUMMARY

2. ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL BOMMER'S INTRODUCTION OF TOPIC MENTIONED 1975 FAO CONFERENCE RESOLUTION ON SUBJECT AND UNGA 7TH SPECIAL SESSION'S GOAL TO REDUCE POST-HARVEST LOSSES BY 50 0/0 BY 1985, SAID ATTENTION TO SUCH LOSSES HAS LONG BEEN A PART OF FAO PROGRAMS, REPORTED THAT RECENT STUDY ESTIMATES LOSSES IN RANGE OF 10-26 0/0, LISTED IN FAO HEADQUARTERS AND FIELD PROGRAMS ON SUBJECT TOTALLING APPROXIMATELY \$ 1 MILLION REGULAR FUNDS, AND SAID POST-HARVEST LOSSES WILL BE CONSIDERED IN FULL DETAIL BY COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE (COAG) NEXT APRIL, WITH WORKING DOCUMENT TO BE DISTRIBUTED IN JANUARY.

3. AGENDA ITEM 4 DISCUSSED AS SINGLE TOPIC, INCLUDING STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SOFA) AND POST-HARVEST LOSSES. OF 38 SPEAKERS ON AGENDA ITEM, 10 REFERRED TO POST-HARVEST LOSSES. U.S. STATEMENT ON THIS PROBLEM BY SECRETARY KNEBEL WAS WELL RECEIVED.

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4. REMARKS OF DELEGATIONS NOTED URGENCY OF PROBLEM, SUPPORTED

7TH SPECIAL SESSION GOAL OF 50 0/0 REDUCTION IN LOSSES, AND RECOMMENDED (YUGOSLAVIA, LEBANON, PAKISTAN, GERMANY), THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO A \$20 MILLION TRUST FUND TO HELP LDC'S ON PILOT PROJECT TO CONSTRUCT STORAGE FACILITIES.

5. DG PICKED UP REFECQNCS TO SUGGESTED \$20 MILLION TRUST FUND FOR BUILDING STORAGE STRUCTURES AND SAID AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE SHOULD STUDY FEASIBILITY OF FUND FOR THIS PURPOSE. DIRECTOR GENERAL IS WILLING PUT FORTH FORMAL PROPOSAL WHICH IF APPROVED, COULD BE INCLUDED IN PROGRAM OF WORK AND BUDGET.

6. CHAIRMAN ACCEPTED WITHOUT DISSENT PROPOSAL THAT DG PREPARE DOCUMENT ON POSSIBLE FUND TO HELP LDC'S WITH PRE-AND POST-HARVEST LOSSES TO BE DISCUSSED BY NEXT COAG AND OTHER BODIES NEXT YEAR.

7. TOPIC CONCLUDED BEFORE NOON, NOV. 30, AFTER ONE DAY OF ACTIVE BUT NON-CONTROVERSIAL DEBATE. VOLPE

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